



Daren the Downer



103 2 3

Chapter 1 by Story Wars

All of my life, I've worked effortlessly towards one goal - to stop kids from picking up the drug habit. You'd be surprised the limitations in career an anthropomorphic lion such as myself has. I was lucky that DARE picked me up among the rest of my competition, who were probably stuck in low budget kid shows and mascots for amusement parks.

Maybe that's why I started popping those little blue pills to begin with; to relax. I appreciated the children's enthusiasm, and even welcomed it. Cheering my name in the school cafeteria kept them away from the worst that the outside world had to offer. But it wasn't enough to save me. The stint tired me out. You can't possibly imagine how many times DARE shelled me across the country. I was only one lion. You understand, right? Right?

I think it all started at Country High Middle School, an unfortunately named place for a drug assembly.

Chapter 2 by SaintSayaka



A child asked me a simple question.

"Can I have your autograph?"

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Chapter 3 by PumpedUpPu

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Of course I was going to give the kid an autograph! My hide would be skinned if I didn't, and I didn't see the harm a simple autograph could do.

So, in my shaky paws that never could properly grasp a pen, I scrawled out my name, Daren. I thought the kid was satisfied, I swear. Yet, he tugged on my mane and whispered a sentence in my ear. I couldn't believe it, so I demanded he repeat it.

"Meet me by the storage bin at the end of the assembly. I've got the goods."

I had no clue what to do. As far as I knew, he could've just been making a joke. Perhaps he wanted to trade rubber band bracelets, or whatever middle schoolers are into these days.

However, a part of me nagged to accept the offer.

My mind was split. What was a lion to do?

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